

Linnæus made two species of this *Planorbis*, it is clear, from the opening lines of the paragraph, that the sense intended to be conveyed is not that which he has presented. They are as follows:—

“The minute, semitransparent, horny shell of this species, more generally known to collectors by *the second name* which Linnæus gave to it, &c.” I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,
LOVELL REEVE.

With reference to the foregoing letter, we may remark—

1st. That what Mr. Reeve says respecting the tenth edition of the ‘*Systema Naturæ*’ is totally at variance with the generally received opinion of naturalists that the twelfth is the standard edition of Linnæus’s work, which is to be referred to and followed.

2ndly. That we are fully aware how greatly Mr. Reeve is indebted to the work of M. Moquin-Tandon, and regret that he has so implicitly followed that author in numerous erroneous changes in nomenclature.

3rdly. That Mr. Reeve, however, must not shift the adoption of the name *Planorbis crista* on to his favourite author’s shoulders. Among Mr. Reeve’s own synonymy of the species, we find “*Planorbis (Gyraulis) nautileus*, Moquin-Tandon (1855), *Hist. Moll.* vol. ii. p. 438, which is utterly irreconcilable with the statement in his letter that he follows that author in the adoption of the name *Planorbis crista*.

4thly. That only one construction can be put upon the following passage in his work:—“It may be observed that Linnæus and Draparnaud both made two species of this. The names *crista* and *cristata* have been given to young specimens, and *nautileus* and *imbricatus* to adult specimens.” What can this mean, but that, just as Draparnaud made two species of the shell which he called *cristatus* and *imbricatus*, so Linnæus made two species which he called *crista* and *nautileus*?—a statement at variance with the facts.

On the true Nature of Pleurodyctium problematicum.

By CARL ROMINGER, M.D.

Under the above name I have long kept in my cabinet a specimen collected at Kirchweiler, in the Eifel Mountains. After having identified it with the fossil described by Goldfuss, I laid it aside; and only recently, twenty years afterwards, when I happened to look over it again, the first glance convinced me that the *Pleurodyctium problematicum* is merely the cap of a *Favosites*, or, more accurately speaking, of a *Michelinia*. I have subsequently found that Milne-Edwards had already recognized the family affinity between *Favosites* and *Pleurodyctium*, without, however, suggesting a generic identity of the two.

The fossil from Kirchweiler is represented by a lenticular cavity, a little over one inch in diameter and scarcely half an inch deep. To one side of this cavity are attached the bases of conical sub-

angular columns, three or four millimetres thick at the lower ends; between these are interpolated a good many smaller and shorter columns. They all rapidly converge toward the centre of the opposite concavity. Their sides are longitudinally striated, and covered with punctiform impressions. Numerous small cross-bars connect the columns, which are otherwise isolated from each other by a narrow intervening space.

The opposite side of the cavity, which forms the roof over the convergent smaller ends of the columns, is free, but closely approximated to them, and bears the impression of fine concentric rings of growth. This latter character is not very plain in my specimen, but Goldfuss has given a very good figure of it. He thought it to be the impression of the inner surface of a membranaceous envelope, instead of taking it for what it is—the impression of the epitheca surrounding the lower side of the corallum.

The vermicular body, frequently noticed adhering to or penetrating the root end of *Pleurodyctium*, is also seen in my specimen.

I was greatly surprised at observing the same vermicular perforation in some small specimens of *Michelinia*, which also in all other respects appear to be specifically identical with the coral of which the European *Pleurodyctium* is a cap.

The specimens were found in the shales of the Hamilton group, Cayuga county, New York, and are in the possession of Prof. Winchell, of Ann Arbor. They form small cakes, not much over one inch in diameter. The lower side is almost flat, covered with a concentrically wrinkled epitheca: the upper side is semiglobular, and shows the mouth-ends of conical subangular tubes, the larger ones of which measure from four to five millimetres.

On the polished vertical sections of the coral, longitudinal striæ and rows of spinules, together with numerous side-pores, are visible along the walls of the tubes.

The upper part of the tubes is generally filled with calcareous matter, and shows no diaphragms, which are only preserved in the lower ends, and are in part simple and straight, in part vesicular.

The vermicular channel traverses the substance of the corallum, irrespective of the direction of the tubes, and seems to cut straight through them. After some flexures, it ascends to the upper surface, and opens there with a round mouth, while the other tubes are more or less angular. It is improbable that this perforating channel has anything to do with the organism of the coral, and is more likely the work of a parasitic animal; but after all, it is still strange to see the majority of specimens, from such distant localities, attacked in the same way by a boring animal.

In the Corniferous Limestone at Port Colborne, on Lake Erie, I lately found a cap exhibiting all the characters of *Pleurodyctium*. In association with it numerous specimens of *Michelinia favositoidea* (Billings) are found; and there remains no doubt that this cast originates from a young specimen of this latter species.—*Silliman's Journal* for January, 1863.

Piedmontese Plants.

Dr. Rostan, an excellent botanist, residing at Perrier, in one of the Vaudois valleys in Piedmont, who, besides other additions to the native flora, has rediscovered several plants not known to botanists since the time of Allioni, proposes to publish a collection of 200 species of dried plants, to include the greater part of the rare and less-known species of Western Piedmont. In the list will be found *Arabis pedemontana*, Boiss., *Isatis alpina*, All., *Dianthus furcatus*, Balb., *Cerastium lineare*, All., *Trifolium pannonicum*, L., *Ribes purpureum*, Rost., *Saxifraga valdensis*, DC., *Centaurea Kotschyana*, Heuff., *Campanula Elatines*, L., *Gentiana Rostani*, Reut., *Veronica succulenta*, All., *Allium valdensium*, Reut., and many other very rare species.

The parcels will be carefully made up, the specimens well dried, and several will be given of each of the smaller species.

The price to subscribers who send their names to Dr. Rostan before the 1st of August, 1863, will be 40 francs=32 shillings. Price to non-subscribers £2; in each case exclusive of carriage.

Address applications, post-paid, to Dr. Rostan, Perrier, viâ Pignerol, Piedmont. It will facilitate the transmission of the parcels if each applicant will give an address in London to which they may be forwarded.

Obituary Notice.—WILLIAM GROVES PERRY.

Died on the 25th of March, 1863, at his residence in New Street, Warwick, Mr. William Groves Perry, at the age of sixty-seven. He was one of the early contributors to Loudon's 'Magazine of Natural History,' and a Fellow of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh. In 1820 he published a work called 'Plantæ Varvicenses Selectæ,' or 'The Botanist's Guide through the County of Warwick,' which, following the 'Flora Midlandica' of Dr. Purton, made considerable additions to what related to the Warwickshire species included in that work, more especially in noting the localities with greater precision. With a view to still greater exactness in this particular, a table was added, showing the distance of the several localities from the nearest market town. This little work was never so well known as it deserved to be, owing probably to its having been published by the author himself at Warwick: it has, however, been long since out of print; and a second edition was in progress at the time of Mr. Perry's death, which we hope some day to see completed and published.

In addition to his botanical studies, Mr. Perry possessed considerable antiquarian knowledge, and was for many years Honorary Secretary of the Warwickshire Natural History and Archæological Society. As one of the early contributors to a periodical of which the present may be regarded as the continuation, we think this notice of his labours and of his death a proper introduction into our pages; and we are sure that all those with whom he was acquainted, and to whom his unvarying kindness of disposition and liberality in imparting information were known, will feel grateful for its appearance here.